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**Subject:** Monument Review Talking Points  
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**Attachments:** [Monument Review Talking Points.docx](#)

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Here are the talking points. Nate is trying to fix the formatting of the comms plan - the formatting gets all jacked up in the conversion from a Google doc to a Word doc.

As soon as we figure that out we'll send it to you.

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## MONUMENT REVIEW TALKING POINTS

### **Topline Message:**

- These monument modifications will continue to protect objects and prioritize public access, infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance, traditional use, tribal cultural use, and hunting and fishing rights.

### **Five Key Points:**

- *Corrects Past Overreach*
  - We are righting past overreach. The Act requires that only objects of significance are designated, within the smallest area compatible, and we are going to follow the law.
- *Prioritizes Infrastructure Upgrades*
  - We will remove restrictions that impede needed infrastructure improvements, such as upgrading restrooms, visitor centers, and trails, all of which serve to protect the objects in question.
- *Increases Public Access*
  - We are increasing the public access that has been restricted by monument designations. Monument designations should be used to protect, not prevent.
- *Restores Trust and Gives Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses*
  - We are making sure local communities have a voice by restoring traditional “multiple use” activities on these lands.
  - This will increase economic competitiveness, especially in rural communities, by allowing grazing, commercial fishing, logging, and in some cases, mineral development.
- *Continues Protection Where Warranted*
  - We are continuing to protect public land, including keeping parts of monuments to protect objects of significance within the smallest areas compatible.
    - We’re not going to drill in public parks.
    - We’re not going to sell public lands.
    - We’ll protect objects in the “smallest area compatible” with the proper care of the objects to be protected.

## **Additional Messaging:**

### ***Righting Past Overreach, since past Presidents have not followed the law***

- The Antiquities Act requires that objects be of significance, the area reserved to protect the objects is the smallest area compatible, and that monuments be designated on federal land only.
- “Objects of significance” have been misinterpreted to include:
  - Landscape areas, biodiversity (Cascade Siskiyou), “viewsheds” (Katahdin Woods and Waters), World War II desert bombing craters (Organ Mountains Desert Peaks) and “remoteness” (Basin and Range National Monument); and
  - Have been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to designate areas.
- Smallest area compatible:
  - The first monument designated under the act was Devils Tower at almost 1,200. Several monuments designated since 1996 have been millions of acres.
  - President Obama established or expanded monuments on more than 550 million acres of land and water, more than any other President.
- On federal land:
  - Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in the case of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, the expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.

### ***Prioritize Infrastructure Improvements***

- It is common for monument designations to prevent construction of future roads and other facilities, making the land inaccessible for use.
- Infrastructure enhancements enrich the people’s experience on our public lands far more than a designation written and signed in Washington, DC.

### ***Increasing public access that has been restricted by monument designations***

- Advocates often aim for a monument’s eventual designation as a National Park by Congress, and National Parks do not allow hunting and can restrict motorized access.
  - Many National Parks were first designated as National Monuments. Examples are Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Glacier Bay, Grand Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, Joshua Tree, Petrified Forest, Saguaro, and Zion.
- Roads closures
  - Restrictions on vegetative management and maintenance activities have led to poorly maintained roads and even closures, for example in Cascade Siskiyou and Rio Grande Del Norte. Roads have also been intentionally been closed as part of management plans in order to protect objects.

***Restoring the local voice by allowing the traditional uses conducted on the land prior to designation to occur.***

- Monument designations have put land “off limits” for traditional multiple-uses like ranching, timber harvest, fishing, resource development, infrastructure upgrades, and motorized recreation.
- Designating too much land for a national monument is harmful to the local tax base via the elimination of grazing, timber and mineral leases, as well as the elimination of hunting and fishing access.
- Monuments should not be designated to prevent rather than protect.
  - For example, subpoenaed emails and a Congressional investigation showed that Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was designated to stop a Coal project

***Continuing to protect public land***

- These lands are already federal which therefore carry protection or have protective land designations.
- GSENM has over 800,000 of Wilderness Study Areas and Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) has almost 450,000 of Wilderness Study Areas or Wilderness.
- The National Environmental Protection Act and the Archeological Protection Act are just two of the many environmental laws passed after 1906 Antiquities Act that offer increased land protections.

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